

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- Sub 1
1. A VSAT terminal comprising:
 - an antenna;
 - a microwave power amplifier;
 - a microwave low noise amplifier;
 - a transmitter coupled via said microwave power amplifier to said antenna;
 - a receiver coupled via said microwave low noise amplifier to said antenna;
 - a user VSAT interface; and
 - a controller in communication with said user VSAT interface and in electrical connection with said microwave power amplifier and said microwave low noise amplifier for supplying power thereto, said controller being operative to provide a less-than-full electrical power supply to either of said amplifiers in the absence of a communication session and operative to provide a full electrical power supply to either of said amplifiers in the presence of a communication session.
 2. A VSAT terminal according to claim 1 wherein said controller is responsive to operation of said user VSAT interface for providing electrical power to said microwave power amplifier.
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 3. A VSAT terminal according to claim 1 wherein said controller is responsive to operation of said user VSAT interface for providing electrical power to said microwave low noise amplifier.
 4. A VSAT terminal according to claim 1 wherein said controller provides a less-than-full power supply to said microwave low noise amplifier and said microwave power amplifier in the

absence of a communication session and wherein said controller is responsive to operation of said user VSAT interface for providing a full electrical power supply to said microwave low noise amplifier and said microwave power amplifier.

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5. A VSAT terminal according to claim 1 wherein said controller provides a less-than-full power supply to said microwave power amplifier and a full power supply to said microwave low noise amplifier in the absence of a communication session and wherein said controller is responsive to operation of said user VSAT interface for providing a full electrical power supply to said microwave low noise amplifier and said microwave power amplifier.

6. A VSAT terminal according to claim 1 wherein said controller provides a less-than-full power supply to said microwave power amplifier and a full power supply to said microwave low noise amplifier in the absence of a communication session and wherein said controller is responsive to receipt of an incoming transmission via said microwave low noise amplifier for providing a full electrical power supply to said microwave low noise amplifier and said microwave power amplifier.

7. A VSAT terminal according to claim 1 and wherein said controller is operative to provide a less-than-full electrical power supply to either of said amplifiers after a predetermined period of inactivity of said user VSAT interface.

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8. A VSAT terminal according to claim 1 and wherein said controller is operative to provide a less-than-full electrical power supply to either of said amplifiers after a predetermined period of inactivity of said microwave low noise amplifier.

9. A VSAT terminal according to claim 1 and wherein said controller operates in accordance with a predetermined algorithm for providing electrical power to said microwave power amplifier.

10. A VSAT telecommunication network comprising:
at least one satellite; and
a plurality of VSAT terminals in communication with said satellite, wherein at least one of said VSAT terminals comprises:

an antenna;

a microwave power amplifier;

a microwave low noise amplifier;

a transmitter coupled via said microwave power amplifier to said antenna;

a receiver coupled via said microwave low noise amplifier to said antenna;

a user VSAT interface; and

a controller in communication with said user VSAT interface and in electrical connection with said microwave power amplifier and said microwave low noise amplifier for supplying power thereto, said controller being operative to provide a less-than-full electrical power supply to either of said amplifiers in the absence of a communication session and operative to provide a full electrical power supply to either of said amplifiers in the presence of a communication session.

11. A method for managing power consumption in a VSAT terminal having an antenna, a microwave power amplifier, a microwave low noise amplifier, a transmitter coupled via said microwave power amplifier to said antenna, a receiver coupled via said microwave low noise amplifier to said antenna, a user VSAT interface, and a controller in communication with said user VSAT interface, said microwave low noise amplifier, and said microwave power amplifier, the

method comprising:

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providing a less-than-full electrical power supply to either of said amplifiers in the absence of a communication session; and
providing a full electrical power supply to either of said amplifiers in the presence of a communication session.

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12. A method according to claim 11 wherein said providing a less-than-full electrical power supply step comprises providing a less-than-full power supply to said microwave low noise amplifier and said microwave power amplifier in the absence of a communication session and wherein said providing a full electrical power supply step comprises providing a full electrical power supply to said microwave low noise amplifier and said microwave power amplifier in response to operation of said user VSAT interface.

13. A method according to claim 11 and further comprising providing a full power supply to said microwave power amplifier in the absence of a communication session, wherein said providing a less-than-full electrical power supply step comprises providing a less-than-full power supply to said microwave power amplifier and wherein said providing a full electrical power supply step comprises providing a full electrical power supply to said microwave power amplifier and said microwave power amplifier in response to operation of said user VSAT interface.

14. A method according to claim 11 and further comprising providing a full power supply to said microwave power amplifier in the absence of a communication session, wherein said providing a less-than-full electrical power supply step comprises providing a less-than-full power supply to said microwave power amplifier and wherein said providing a full electrical power supply step comprises providing a full electrical power supply to said microwave low noise amplifier and said microwave power amplifier in response to receipt of an incoming transmission via said

microwave low noise amplifier.

15. A method according to claim 11 and wherein said providing a less-than-full electrical power supply step comprises providing a less-than-full power supply to either of said amplifiers after a predetermined period of inactivity of said user VSAT interface.

16. A method according to claim 11 and wherein said providing a less-than-full electrical power supply step comprises providing a less-than-full power supply to either of said amplifiers after a predetermined period of inactivity of said microwave low noise amplifier.